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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **MEXICAN EXTRADITED TO ARIZONA FOR DRUG CHARGES**

PHOENIX – On December 9, 2004, agents from the DEA Yuma Resident Office were notified by the U.S. Marshal's Service that Ignacio Avilez-Bustillos of Mexico had been extradited from Mexico to Phoenix. Avilez-Bustillos had been arrested in San Luis, Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico by members of the Agencia Federal de Investigacion on September 16, 2003, pursuant to a U.S. Provisional Arrest Warrant requested on July 23, 2003 by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Avilez-Bustillos' arrest and extradition are part of an ongoing investigation regarding Jose Luis Angulo-Soto, aka, "Mi Nino," and associates of his Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO). Angulo-Soto and Avilez-Bustillos were identified as major drug traffickers who had direct ties to the Zambada-Garcia DTO, the Hector Palma-Salazar DTO and the Albino Quintero-Meraz DTO.

Avilez-Bustillos was indicted in July 2002, in the District of Arizona on federal charges of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana in violation of Title 21, U.S. Code Section 841(a)(1) and 846, (which has a five year mandatory minimum sentence and a \$2,000,000 fine); Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 500 grams or more of Methamphetamine in violation of Title 21, U.S. Code Section 841(a)(1) and 846 (which has a ten year mandatory minimum with a \$4,000,000 fine) and Possession with Intent to Distribute 500 grams or more of Methamphetamine in violation of Title 21, U.S. Code Section, 841(a)(1) (which has a ten year mandatory minimum with a \$4,000,000 fine).

This DEA led investigation, acting in concert with the U.S. Attorney's Office, was

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commenced against Jose Luis Angulo Soto and his associates against his drug trafficking organization in 2000. During this in-depth investigation, approximately 8,000 pounds of marijuana and nine pounds of methamphetamine were seized. Additionally, approximately \$85,000 dollars in assets were seized. The marijuana has a street value of approximately eight million dollars and the methamphetamine has a street value of approximately \$500,000.

DEA Special Agent in Charge Timothy J. Landrum stated, "The arrest and extradition of Ignacio Avilez-Bustillos is a major victory in our efforts to protect the public from the negative consequences of dangerous drugs. This achievement is a powerful example of the combined efforts of our partners in U.S. and Mexican drug law enforcement." U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton added, "Those who violate federal drug laws should never believe that they are beyond the reach of prosecution by U.S. criminal justice agencies working together."

Other participating agencies in the investigation were agents and officers from the FBI, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Marshal's Service, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Yuma County Sheriff's Office, Yuma Police Department and the Yuma Southwest Border Alliance HIDTA Task Force.

The prosecution is being handled by Mark W. Reeves, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Yuma, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR 02-666-PSX-JAT  
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